GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1584
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
National Waste Water Reuse Policy
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of wastewater reuse in the country;

(b) whether the Government is considering formulation of a national wastewater reuse policy in the country and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be formulated;

(c) whether a drawback of Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology has resulted in wastage of huge water in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to use latest technology of RO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a)&(b) Central Government encourages recycle and reuse of water among different stakeholders. The National Water Policy, 2012 has also recommended that the recycle and reuse of water, including return flows, should be the general norm. The Policy has further recommended that recycle and reuse of water, after treatment to specified standards, should also be incentivized through a properly planned tariff system.

CPCB has reassessed the sewage generation and treatment capacity for urban population of India for the year 2015. The sewage generation is estimated to be 62000 MLD approximately as against the sewage treatment capacity of only 23277 MLD from 816 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). CPCB has issued directions under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for making it mandatory for local/urban bodies to set up STPs of adequate capacity to bridge the treatment gap. As far as possible, the treated effluents are to be recycled / reused for the non-potable use. The above mentioned gaps in Water Supply and Waste Water Management provide huge opportunities for infrastructure development for urban local bodies in particular and State Governments in general.

Recently, the Government had taken a decision that the thermal power plant(s) including the existing plants located within 50 km radius of sewage treatment plant of Municipality/local bodies/similar organization shall in the order of their closeness to the sewage treatment plant, mandatorily use treated sewage water produced by these bodies and the associated cost on this account be allowed as a pass through in the tariff. Such thermal plants may also ensure back-up source of water to meet their requirement in the event of shortage of supply by the sewage treatment plant. The associated cost on this account shall be factored into the fixed cost so as not to disturb the merit order of such thermal plant.

(c) & (d) A drawback of Reverse Osmosis Technology is that some water gets wasted due to the use of this technology. However, application of Reverse Osmosis in drinking water treatment systems is preferable when the Total Dissolved solids (TDS) in raw water is high or there are multiple contaminants in raw water which warrant the use of Reverse Osmosis technology. Further, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued specification on Reverse Osmosis based point of use water treatment system in its specification IS 16240:2015. The specification states that RO system is not recommended for arsenic level above 0.1 mg/1 and fluoride level about 8.0 mg/1. Also, the minimum recovery shall be equal to or more than 20 percent.
State Governments take several measures for providing safe drinking water to the people of the State by using different water purification technologies/processes like pre-chlorination, aeration, coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, disinfection etc. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes.

Department of Science and Technology is promoting indigenous research and development to develop cost effective and efficient solutions for water purification technologies including demonstration of high recovery reverse osmosis systems.
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